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Secretary of State Shultz speaks to reporters before the summit.

Shultz insisted on expulsions at U.N., aides say

By Stephens Broening
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WASHINGTON — Secretary of State George P. Shultz originated the proposal to expel suspected spies from the Soviet mission to the United Nations, his aides said yesterday, countering what they saw as an attempt to discredit him.

They said Mr. Shultz was the moving force behind a memorandum the State Department sent to the National Security Council last month recommending that the United States act to force the Soviets to comply with a standing order to cut the size of their U.N. mission by Oct. 1.

The officials said the State Department asked the "relevant agencies" — the FBI, the CIA and others — to nominate which Soviets suspected of spying should be included in the expulsion order that was handed to the Soviets on Oct. 17.

These assertions flatly contradicted a report written by _The New York Times_, and published in _The Sun_ this week, that said the secretary of state "initially opposed the expulsion of 25 Soviet diplomats at the United Nations whom the United States identified as intelligence operatives."

The published account went on to quote "one administration official" as saying that "State was not pleased with the decision [to expel the Soviets] and they tried to walk it back."

State Department officials said the account was not only erroneous, but it appeared to be intended to discredit the secretary and his policy on the eve of negotiations with the Soviet Union at the Reykjavik summit.

These officials said they had identified the source of the reports as the Justice Department, where some senior officials have expressed misgivings about moves to normalize relations with the Soviet Union, a policy with which Mr. Shultz is closely identified.

The State Department recommendation, the officials said, was prompted by a remark at a press conference Sept. 12 by Alexander M. Belogonov, Soviet ambassador to the United Nations.

Mr. Belogonov told reporters, "We are not in any stage of preparations" to comply with an American order of March 7 that the Soviet U.N. mission be cut from 243 to 218 people by Oct. 1.

Ambassador Belogonov's remark was seen by Secretary Shultz as provocative, especially in the midst of touchy negotiations aimed at gaining the release of Nicholas Daniloff, the _U.S. News & World Report_ correspondent who administration officials believe was arrested in Moscow in retaliation for the arrest of a Soviet spy in New York in August.

In its original note to the Soviets in March, the State Department gave the Soviets the choice of which 25 would go.

Angered by Mr. Belogonov's defiance, State Department officials recommended that the United States seize the initiative by giving U.S. counterintelligence agencies "carte blanche to pick their favorite people" and then present the Soviets with a list of "true blue spies," one State Department official said.

During negotiations with Mr. Shultz in Washington and later in New York, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze asked the secretary to reconsider the expulsion order since the U.N. mission was already below the 214 ceiling, U.S. officials said.

Mr. Shevardnadze told Mr. Shultz that several men on the list were experienced diplomats who were needed at the United Nations to help him, they said.

On the basis of the Soviet foreign minister's appeal and his offer to provide details attesting to their bona fides, Mr. Shultz agreed to reprieve 11 of the 25 who had not yet left the United States by the end of last month, officials said.

He postponed their ouster for two weeks, until Oct. 14.

State Department officials said Mr. Shevardnadze still had provided no details and the United States was going to expel the remaining 11 as scheduled next week.

Among the 11 are men identified as the New York station chief for the KGB and the bureau chief of the GRU, the Soviet military intelligence branch.